

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: CIA DIRECTOR COLBY'S INTERVIEW ON TODAY PROGRAM

1. WILLIAM E. COLBY, DIRECTOR OF CIA, WAS INTERVIEWED ON JANUARY 8 NBC TODAY PROGRAM. ASKED ABOUT PRESS REPORTS OF CIA FUNNELING \$6 MILLION TO ITALY, COLBY REPLIED: "WE HAVE NOT SPENT A NICKEL IN ITALY IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS TO BE SPECIFIC ABOUT IT. WE HAVE NOT DONE SO. I CANNOT DISCUSS WHAT OUR PLANS, WHAT OUR THOUGHTS MIGHT BE FOR THE FUTURE. SHOULD THE US HELP ITS FRIENDS IN A FRIENDLY COUNTRY TO KEEP THAT COUNTRY FROM COMING UNDER A COMMUNIST CONTROL AND HAVING A COMMUNIST PARTY BE THE MAJORITY PARTY IN THAT COUNTRY? I THINK THE US CAN HELP ITS FRIENDS. WE DID HELP OUR FRIENDS IN WESTERN EUROPE AFTER WORLD WAR II. WE HELPED THEM THROUGH MILITARY FORCE, THROUGH NATO. WE HELPED THEM THROUGH ECONOMIC AID THROUGH THE MARSHALL PLAN, AND WE HELPED SEVERAL OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND FORCES THROUGHOUT WESTERN EUROPE TO SUSTAIN THEMSELVES

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AGAINST A SUBVERSION EFFORT BY THE COMMUNISTS AND THEIR

SOVIET MASTERS."

2. ASKED IF THE CIA PLANNED TO SPEND MONEY IN ITALY, COLBY
REPLIED: "I AM NOT AT LIBERTY TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF OUR
ACTIVITIES BUT I THINK I CAN SAY THAT WE HAVE NOT SPENT ANY

MONEY, PERIOD." KISSINGER

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